

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 AID-20 PC-04 RSR-01 /134 W

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R 031030 Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3784

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

GNUESOU/ AMEMBASSY COTONOU 0408

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

UNCLAS DAKAR 2760

EO 11652 N/ A

TAGS: CM SG XJ PFOR

SUBJ: CAMEROUN AND OCAM

1. PRESIDENT AHIDJO, VACATIONING PRIVATELY IN DAKAR SINCE JUNE 24, GAVE AN INTERVIEW ON JULY 3 TO REPORTERS OF LE MONDE AND AFP IN WHICH HE ANNOUNCED CAMEROUN' S INTENTION TO WITHDRAW FROM OCAM.

2. HE SAID THAT HE HAD FIRST INFORMED OCAM PRESIDENT SENGIOR IN A PRIVATE MEETING AT LATTER' S SUMMER RESIDENCE AT POPENGUINE.

3. SIGNIFICANT ITEMS ON THE INTERVIEW INCLUDED HIS STATEMENT THAT
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OCAM IS AN ANACHRONISM IN WHICH HE NO LONGER FELT AT EASE. HE WOULD LATER DECIDE WHETHER TO CONTINUE MEMBERSHIP IN THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF OCAM BUT COULD SAY NOW THAT NONE IS INDISPENSABLE TO CAMEROUN. HE WOULD NOT EXPEL THE OCAM HEADQUARTERS FROM YAOUNDE BUT IT WOULD DO WELL TO FIND ANOTHER SITE. THERE WILL BE NO LACK OF CANDIDATES.

4. PROFESSING HIMSELF A CONVINCED AND FERVENT MILITANT IN BEHALF OF AFRICAN UNITY AND THE USEFULNESS OF SUCH MOVEMENTS AS THE CEAO, WHICH CAN LATER BE ENLARGED, HE SAID OCAM IS NOT AFRICA, NOR A REGIONAL NOR A SUBREGIONAL GROUPING. IT RENDERED SERVICE IN ITS TIME BY PERMITTING HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT TO MEET EACH OTHER AND TO FORM FRIENDSHIPS. BUT UDEAC CONSTITUTES THE MAXIMUM OF WHAT IS REALISTICALLY POSSIBLE FOR CAMEROUN NOW IN THE MATTER OF REGIONAL GROUPINGS. CAMEROUN WOULD, HOWEVER, WISH GOOD LUCK TO THOSE GROUPINGS OF WHICH IT IS NOT A PART.

5. OCAM SECRETARY GENERAL FALILOU KANE, A SENEGALESE, ARRIVED IN DAKAR YESTERDAY FROM YAOUNDE, BUT APPARENTLY MADE NO STATEMENT AT EITHER END.

6. DAKAR' S SOLEIL OF JULY 3 CARRIED SIGNED MORE IN SORROW EDITORIAL BY EDITOR BARA DIOUF UNDER HEADING GROWTH AND CHANGE. IT WAS SENGHOR WHO DIAGNOSED AT PORT LOUIS IN MAY A CRISIS OF GROWTH IN OCAM. WHEN AHIDJO SPOKE OF OCAM AS ANACHRONISM HE WAS ONLY REPHRASING THE IDEA THAT SENGHOR HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT AT THE SPECIAL DAKAR MEETING IN DECEMBER CAMEROUN' S WITHDRAWAL WILL ONLY BE INTERPRETED AS A SIGN OF DISLOCATION IN OCAM. WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE CRUMBLING OF THE OLD INSTITUTIONS INHERITED FROM THE IMMEDIATE POST COLONIAL PERIOD, WHILE A NEW AFRICA IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING BORN, DECIDED MORE THAN EVER TO ASSUME ITS DESITNY IN A FREE AND SOVEREIGN CONTINENT. IT IS A QUESTION OF EXPLORING NEW WAYS AND NEW ORIENTATIONS. NOW THAT THE WINE IS UNCORKED, IT IS NECESSARY TO DRINK IT. WHILE WE REGRET THE WITHDRAWAL OF AN EMINENT MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZATION, WE APPRECIATE THE LOYAL ATTITUDE THAT CAUSED AHIDJO FIRST TO INFORM HIS BROTHER AND FRIEND SENGHOR. CLARK

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